

God saw how good it was. (Genesis 1:12c)

God Creates the Earth – Genesis 1:1-19

Prepare to Wonder

Our Bible story today comes from the first chapter of the first book of the Bible, the Book of Genesis. Genesis contains two accounts of Creation, one in the first chapter and one in the second chapter. Today's telling is found in the first account and begins with creating light and dark, evening and morning. God made both, the light and the darkness, and each are necessary parts of God's creation.

Light and darkness serve as markers for time. In Genesis 1, the Creation account is divided into days. The repeated phrase, "There was evening and there was morning," divides the story into seven days. The creation events are reported over six days, plus a final day of rest.

The Genesis stories also give us guidance about the beginning of life. This story sets the stage for all of creation. To create, is God's act of bringing the world and all of life into being. God knew that the world needed both light and dark to prepare a place for all that was to come. The Bible story mentions the light will be bigger and the darkness smaller. The world is created from a formless void and a great darkness. But, light is a symbol of life. Each day the light pushes away darkness and gives way to a new creation. God gives each a place in space and time and calls it good.

We too can bring light into the world. Through our creativity we are an expression of light. God's light lives within each one of us and reminds us that together we can create God's world. Children are also incredibly creative and bring so much light into the world. We let their light shine when we encourage their creativity and see it as very good. **Read more at www...**

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Everyone has the ability to be creative, but as adults we can sometimes forget to embrace our creativity. Over the course of the next few weeks, I encourage you to start a creative project. Paint, draw, write, build, or do something else that inspires your creativity. As you work, remember God sees all creation as good.

Welcome to Wonder

Prepare Ahead: As a family, create a Wonder Table. Find a small table or area in your home. On the table place a candle, a plant or flower, and any other special items you want to include.

Tip: Use this space while engaging in the lesson.

- Gather together as a family.

WONDER together

- What does creativity mean to you?
- Are you creative? How?

CONTINUE to Wonder

- How do you think the earth was created?
- What is the best part of God's creation?

PRAY together

- Dear God, thank you for creating me and making me creative. Amen,.

SING together

- Use your Annual Music CD or download "Very Good" (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Annual-Music>).
- Play "Very Good."
- Sing and celebrate.

Wonder with Me

Supplies: CEB Bible, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Cube (Digital Pack) optional

READ the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story, Genesis 1:1-19.
- Roll the Wonder Cube. Take time to answers a few of the questions.

WATCH the Bible Story

- Visit (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Video>). to download and watch today's Bible story.

SHARE the Faith Word

Faith Word: CREATIVITY - Creativity is the process of imagining and making something, just like God imagined and created the world.

WONDER: Is God creative?

Experience Wonder— Create the Earth (Art)

Supplies: materials that can be recycled such as water bottles, plastic containers, recycled paper and so forth; tape, glue, and string

SAY: Look at all these materials we have. These items may look like a lot of trash.

WONDER: Did you know that almost anything can be used to create something beautiful?

- Use the materials to make an item that resembles the earth.
- Share your creations with one another.

WONDER: How did God create the earth?

Spiritual Practice—Exploring creation through beauty

Supplies: Celebration Chart, Family Activity Book, (optional), glow-in-the-dark stars, Family Activity Book, Celebration Chart

Prepare Ahead: Print the "Celebration Chart."

- Gather together.

SAY: God created both the light and the darkness. Both are good and important for all of creation. We can find God's beautiful creation during the day and at night.

WONDER: What beautiful things do you see during the day?

- Hold a glow-in-the-dark star.

SAY: This is a beautiful star. But, it does something extra special when we turn off the lights. Sometimes, it can be scary when it is dark. But, God is still there. God is present in both the light and the darkness. (*Turn off the lights.*)

WONDER: What beautiful things do you see at night?

SAY: You see, God gives us light even in the darkness. We have the moon and the stars and God is there too! (*Turn on the lights.*)

PRAY: God our Creator, thank you for darkness and light, and thank you for making a beautiful world that we can see all around us. Amen.